

*Salem Lutheran
Church and School*

Established 1849 Black Jack, MO

July 12, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod



Rev. Martin Dressler, Pastor

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Rev. Alger J. Tormoehlen, Honorary Pastor Emeritus

Church Office: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Monday-Thursday

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Church Email: salemchurch@salembjmo.org

WELCOME to the Lord's House today! May God help us to worship Him in spirit and in truth! If you do not have a regular church home, then we invite you to join our family. May this celebration of the mercy of God enrich your spiritual life and be uplifting for each one of you.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. These feature a coloring sheet and activities for children based on the Scripture readings of the day. Please help yourself.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING ASSISTANCE SETS are available for those with impaired hearing. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available in the narthex.

*Sharing the caring CHRIST,
...here, there, and everywhere*

LIFE THOUGHT

The Word of the Lord never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11). And He has clearly proclaimed His lavish love for human lives of all ages, appearances, and abilities, the way that a farmer extravagantly scatters seeds anywhere the soil shows (Matthew 13:3). So, we may speak the sanctity of life with courage and show it with compassion. The Heavenly Father remains responsible for its results, whether reception or rejection.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Martin Dressler

Organist/Pianist: Elin Gomez

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN: Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven (LSB 502, 1-3)



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, the dove sent from heav - en,
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, the fire — ce - les - tial,
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, the unc - tion of bless - ing,



Ev - er one with the One who is Three,
Who on Pen - te - cost came as fore - told,
Sa - cred oil of the green ol - ive tree,



From the Fa - ther You came, Words of peace to pro - claim,
To de - scend from on high And the Church oc - cu - py
Giv - ing heat, giv - ing light, As the tent lamps ig - nite



Come and com - fort us, speak ten - der - ly.
As the cloud filled the tem - ple of old;
And as Aar - on praised God joy - ful - ly.



You, the fra - grance of life we are seek - ing;
All the bap - tized You seal with Your prom - ise,
Bless - ed liv - ing and life - giv - ing wa - ter,



Fill Your tem - ple, Your al - tar make clean.
All be - liev - ers Your gift there re - ceive,
Now pre - serve us from e - vil with - in;



Joy - ous shel - ter of love, Gra - cious friend from a - bove,
So that all the e - lect— All in Christ— may ex - pect
For in Je - sus, God's Son, All be - liev - ers are one



In Your care we are rest - ing, se - rene.
To en - joy what by grace they be - lieve.
In this wash - ing that cleans - es from sin.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Blessed is the one You choose and bring near,

C: to dwell in Your courts!

P: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,

C: the holiness of Your temple!

Silence to reflect on your need for a Savior.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **So often has Your Word, O Lord, fallen on our hearts hardened by anger and frustration, obstructed, and made weak by the cares of the world. We have fallen back into our old fears and the slavery of sin. By Your Spirit break the hardness of our hearts that we may receive Your forgiveness and live as Your obedient children in the freedom of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:16). Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent from Heaven (LSB 502, st 4)

4 Ho - ly Spir - it, the wind of great pow - er,
Source of strength and of peace and of love,
Tru - est Com - fort - er, plead, As You bring all our need
To the throne of God's glo - ry a - bove.
Be the light that en - light - ens the Scrip - tures;



Keep our feet from each dev - il - ish snare;
 On - ly You can make whole All that trou - bles our soul;
 By Your chrim, Christ's tri - umph we share.

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PSALM 65:9-13

P: You visit the earth and water it;
 you greatly enrich it;
 the river of God is full of water;
 you provide their grain,
 for so you have prepared it.

**C: You water its furrows abundantly,
 settling its ridges,
 softening it with showers,
 and blessing its growth.**

P: You crown the year with your bounty;
 your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

**C: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
 the hills gird themselves with joy,
 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,**

P: the valleys deck themselves with grain,
 they shout and sing together for joy.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE



☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."



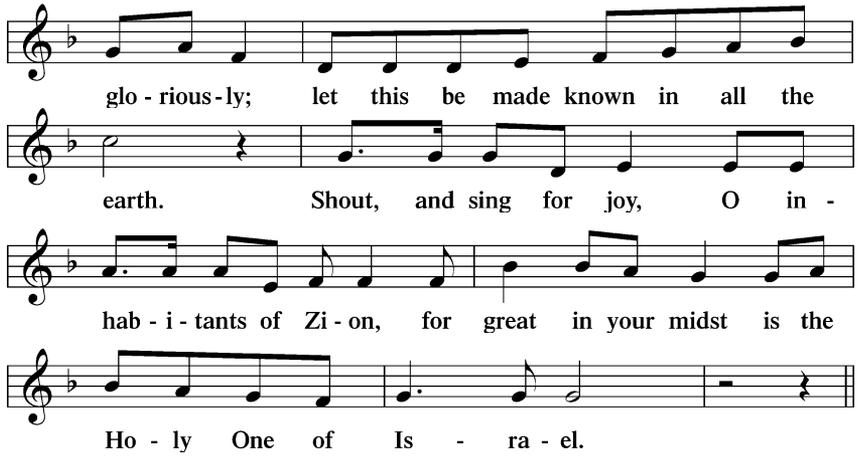
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

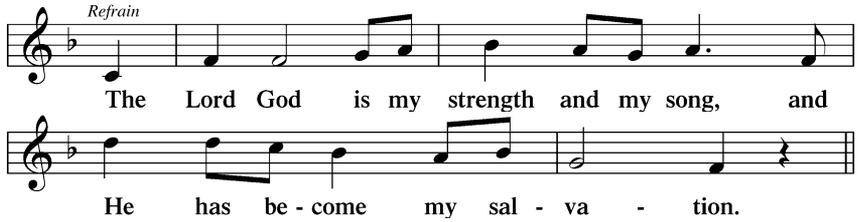


Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
 earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
 hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
 Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

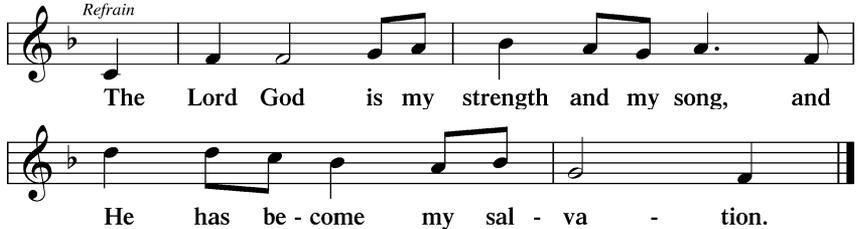


The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10-13

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . .

"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN: Preach You the Word (LSB 586)



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home To men who
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your ser - vant
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love Scat - ters a -
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be



like or like it not, The Word that shall en -
 bade us un - der - take: To preach Your Word and
 broad the good - ly seed, In - tent a - lone that
 choked and mat - ted flat, The sow - er sows; his



ture and stand When flow'rs and men shall be for - got.
 nev - er ask What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
 all may have The whole - some loaves that all men need.
 heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

5 Of all his scattered plenteousness
 One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,
 And bears a harvest hundredfold:
 "Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"

6 Preach you the Word and plant it home
 And never faint; the Harvest Lord
 Who gave the sower seed to sow
 Will watch and tend His planted Word.

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SERMON: "The Reign of God Is Like..." Matt. 13:3 Pastor Dressler

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,
 C: hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY

Soon and Very Soon (AGPS 217)



1. Soon and ver - y soon
 2. No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there
 soon and ver - y soon

soon and ver - y soon Hal-le-
 no more cry - in'there we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in'there
 soon and ver - y soon

lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Follow the direction of the usher to approach the altar. Distribution of the elements will be by wafers placed into your hands and individual cups.

PREFACE

LSB 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

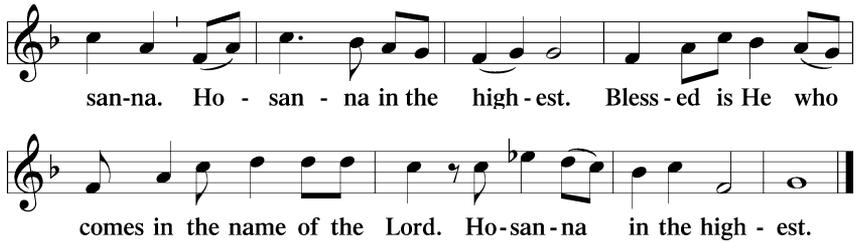
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples

and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

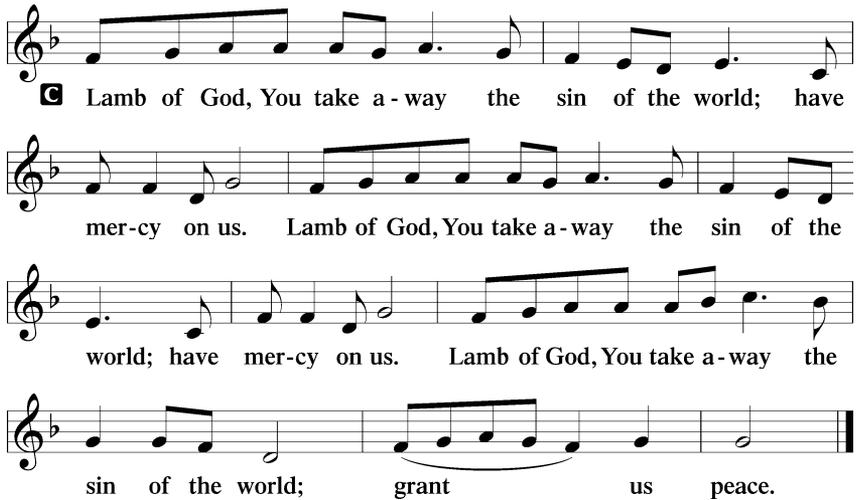
PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

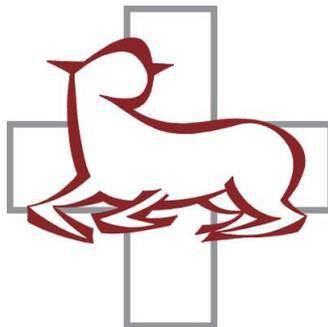
AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

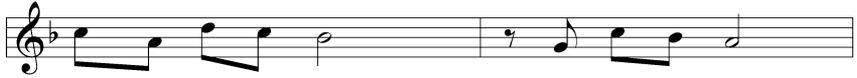


DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

What Is This Bread? (LSB 629)



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	die	Un -	der
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	In	mouth
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to	pay	for	our	re -
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and	love	un -	til	I
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You	not	for -	sak -	en
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly	pres -	ent	in	this
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y	bod -	y	and	His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

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God of Grace (Keith Getty and Jonathan Rea)

*God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;
 Oh the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.
 God of grace, I stand in wonder, as my God restores my soul.
 His own blood has paid my ransom; awesome cost to make me whole.*

*God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began;
 Sent my Savior down from Heaven: Perfect God and perfect man.
 God of grace, I trust in Jesus; I'm accepted as His own.
 Every day new grace sustains me, as I lean on Him alone.*

*God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed forgiven and secure.
 All my fears are now confounded and my hope is ever sure.
 God of grace, now crowned in Glory, where one day I'll see Your face;
 And forever I'll adore You in Your everlasting grace.*

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Praised Be the Rock (TFF 290)



1. Praised be the Rock of our sal - va - tion
 2. God grants the needs of ev - 'ry na - tion,
 3. To spare us all from con - dem-na - tion,
 4. In Je - sus Christ our con - so - la - tion,
 5. We now a - wait the con - sum-ma - tion,



a bul - wark stead - y and a sure place:
 and charts the course that e - ven birds trace:
 God's Son was sent our sins to ef - face:
 made one with him for - ev - er - by grace:
 to see God's glo - ry then in Christ's face:



God's good - ness shown through-out cre-a - tion



for our whole race.

++++++

OFFERING

OFFERING VERSE - "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him." Romans 8:16-17

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – “The difference between shallow happiness and a deep, sustaining joy is sorrow. Happiness lives where sorrow is not. When sorrow arrives, happiness dies. It can’t stand pain. Joy, on the other hand, rises from sorrow and therefore can withstand all grief. Joy, by the grace of God, is the transfiguration of suffering into endurance, and of endurance into character, and of character into hope-- and the hope that has become our joy does not (as happiness must for those who depend up on it) disappoint us.” –Walter Wangerin Jr.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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OUR FATHER’S BUSINESS
For the week of July 12 through July 19, 2020

TODAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45 AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 10:00 AM
Elders 11:15 AM

MONDAY: Sewing Circle (Quilters) 8:30 AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 7:00 PM

TUESDAY: Kingdom Workers 7:15 PM

THURSDAY: Sewing Circle (Quilters) 8:30 AM
Applebutter Meeting 7:00 PM

NEXT SUNDAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45 AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 10:00 AM

A MEASURE OF LOVE FOR OUR LORD
For the week of July 5, 2020

Sunday School 2 students, 1 teacher
Sunday Bible Class 10 [for real not enough! Join us in the Gym!]
Worship Service Attendance 60+13=73
Tithes and Offerings \$8,285.00
Weekly Offerings Budget \$8,000.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. APPLEBUTTER MEETING will be held Thursday, July 16, at 7:00 PM in the church basement to make plans for this fall's applebutter cooking event – if, when, how to get the job done, how much to cook, etc., etc., etc. Please come and share your thoughts, ideas, concerns, etc. All input is needed! All suggestions are welcome!

2. THE ANNUAL DIAPER SHOWER sponsored by the Lutherans For Life Chapter has been extended until further notice. If you have not been able to get out and purchase diapers and/or wipes or have not been able to bring them to church, the table in the narthex will remain set up indefinitely. Thanks to everyone who has made a donation of diapers that will be given to the food pantry at Concordia Seminary to help the Sem families.

3. THIS WEEK ON KFUE AM850, study Judges 4-7 on Sharper Iron's Wisdom from Above series (weekdays at 8:00 a.m.), learn more about how play affected mental health on Mental Health Monday with Deaconess Heidi Goehmann (7/13 at 9:00 a.m.), and study Exodus 26-30 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m.). Find these program on your favorite podcasting app!

4. E-GIVING IS NOW POSSIBLE for making your gifts to Salem! You can download the Abundant app on your smart device and search for Salem Lutheran Church, you can text SALEMBJ to 73256 to receive a link to make your donation, or you can go to:
<https://abundant.co/salemlutheranchurch>
If you have any questions, please call Lisa Briggs (314) 330-2674.

5. ZOOM WITH THE FUNKES - Our missionaries to Tanzania, Eric and Linda Funke, have just completed 7 years of ministry. Adapting to the times, they have uploaded the 45-minute presentation about their ministry (which they would normally have given during the Bible study hour) to their YouTube page—www.youtube.com/EricFunkeGLO. We hope you will take the time to learn more about their years of ministry and how you have been a part of it. They and their two children, Michael and Julia, will also be hosting a **Zoom call at 4pm on Sunday, July 26**, so that they can connect with us and answer any questions we have about the presentation, about what is happening in Tanzania right now, and about what is happening in their lives. The church office will be sending the Zoom link and instructions via email on Friday, July 24. If you for some reason cannot find the email with the link, please email the Funkes at LindaDavisFunke@gmail.com. They are excited to reconnect with us and see some of us via Zoom! We hope you will be able to attend."

July
2020



Life NEWS

www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Jemarius Jachin Harbor, Jr. was born at just 21 weeks gestation in December 2019, making him the youngest surviving preemie ever. Live Action News previously covered his battle to survive, and now, in an exciting update, Jemarius has graduated from the NICU and is going home [this summer]. Born on December 20, Jemarius weighed just 13 ounces and measured smaller than a hand. His mother and father, Jessica McPherson and Jemarius Harbor, Sr., told doctors when Jessica went into premature labor to do everything they could to save their son. “We looked at each other in the eye and I told him just give it a try,” McPherson told Fox5. “I just want you to try. As long as you try, that’s all that matters to me. Don’t just up and say that you can’t do it. Just ‘cause you haven’t done it doesn’t mean it can’t be done.” Gina Phillips, Director of Medical Services at Pregnancy Aid Clinics, told Fox5 back in December that Jemarius’s survival “would be [nothing] short of a miracle,” as no other preemie had ever survived after being born so young. McPherson herself had lost two babies previously after going into premature labor at 22 weeks. Lyla Stensrud, who is now a healthy six-year-old, was born at 21 weeks and four days. Jemarius has broken her record by four days, proving that preemies are able to survive at younger and younger ages if given the medical support they need. (Source: www.liveaction.org/news/youngest-preemie-world-21-weeks-going-home)

Speaking up For Life

“Father, You are the Author of life, and we thank You for the gift that it is. Forgive us when we devalue it in any way. Heal our land from the scourge of legalized abortion and turn our hearts back to profound respect for all life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.” *Duane Matz, former lay pastor with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) and Christian radio announcer*

“May we always think of God’s created children—however they arrive in this world and wherever we find them in the age of this life—as full of value and purpose as God declares us to be. For ‘Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.’” *Rev. Perry Hart, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour”*



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CONGREGATION AT PRAYER: Week of July 12, 2020

- OUR MEMBERS: Gerald and Evelyn Gronemeier; Vicki Gronemeier; Erin Gunn; Olivia Gunn
- OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Carole Breeden; Vernon Colvis; Barbara Cromer
- OUR ILL / HOSPITALIZED: Judy and Ellis Perry, Myrna Goris, Marilyn Patterson, Darryl Gronemeier, Leo Russavage, Teddy Smith, Todd Fuller, Earl LaMotte, Loretta Riedisser, Emma Helmkamp, Anthony Mueller (grandson of Larry and Loretta Riedisser), Bernie Pikal (son-in-law of the Gronemeiers), Cliff Fuller, Thresa Jacobsmeyer, Karen Becker, Betty Williams, Christina Brower, Ini Udofia, and Steve Ziegler.
- OUR SISTER CONGREGATIONS: Trinity Lutheran Church in Doniphan, MO; New Hope Lutheran Church in Andalusia, Alabama; and St. John Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TX.
- BIRTHDAYS: Cynthia Schroeder (7/12), Lisa Briggs (7/12), Sandra Delvecchio (7/12), Carole Breeden (7/13), Marvin Cammack (7/13), Andrew Schneider (7/13), Emily Smith (7/13), Kaleb Vandever (7/13), Nicole Fears (7/14), Norman Loeb (7/16), Brendan Buenger (7/17), Sharon Miller (7/18), Phillip Brower (7/18), Ryan Buenger (7/18)
- GUIDANCE and PATIENCE for all as we navigate ever-changing procedures with COVID-19
- EMPATHY, PATIENCE, MERCY, and an END to racism and violence in our nation

DEVOTION: *Portals of Prayer*

LEARN BY HEART: Lamentations 3:24

DAILY READINGS:

- Sun: Judges 7:1-23; Galatians 1:1-24
- Mon: Judges 13:1-25; Galatians 2:1-21
- Tues: Judges 14:1-20; Galatians 3:1-22
- Wed: Judges 15:1-16:3; Galatians 3:23-4:11
- Thurs: Judges 16:4-30; Galatians 4:12-31
- Fri: 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 5:1-26
- Sat: 1 Samuel 1:21-2:17; Galatians 6:1-18